

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 051114

R 231206Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 5 4 0

EXDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PINT, SREF, CVIS, CGEN

SUBJ: JEWISH EMIGRATION LENINGRAD

1. SUMMARY: FIGURES ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM LENINGRAD FOR SUMMER OF 1976 INDICATE THAT WHILE THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY MAY HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY, THE REFUSENIKS DID NOT DO BADLY ON BALANCE. MAJORITY OF ALL APPLICANTS FOR EMIGRATION SAID TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. FIGURES ON THE LENINGRAD JEWISH EMIGRATION SCENE FOR THE SUMMER PRESENTLY AVAILABLE INDICATE THERE HAVE BEEN TWENTY-THREE PERSONS REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE SINCE JUNE 11. OUR SOURCES MONITOR ONLY THE FRIDAY SESSIONS AT OVIR (I.E. THOSE AT WHICH REFUSALS ARE HANDED DOWN), AND OUR USUAL SOURCES THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR MOST OF THE SUMMER. THERE HAVE BEEN ELEVEN PERSONS GRANTED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE AT THE FRIDAY SESSIONS. NONETHELESS, THESE INCOMPLETE FIGURES LEND SOME SMALL JUSTIFICATION TO REFUSENIKS' AND FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS' HOPES. COUNTED BY FAMILIES AND SINGLE PERSON APPLICATIONS, THE NUMBER OF REFUSALS IS REDUCED TO ELEVEN AS AGAINST SEVEN CASES OF PERMISSION GRANTED.

3. THE AVAILABLE RECORD IS AS FOLLOWS:

JUNE 11: ONE NEW REFUSAL.

JUNE 18: THREE NEW RESUSALS, TWO BECAUSE OF ACCESS TO SECRETS.

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JUNE 25: TWO PERMISSIONS GIVEN TO FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS.

JULY 2: PERMISSION GRANTED TO A REFUSENIK SECOND REFUSAL ISSUED TO A REFUSENIK.

AUG 6: REFUSAL TO A FIRST-TIME APPLICANT MAN WITH WIFE AND DAUGHTER BECUASE OF HIS ARMY SERVICE. REFUSAL TO FIRST-TIME APPLICANT WOMAN WHO APPLIED TO EMIGRATE TO USA WITH HER DAUGHTER.

"BEGINNING OF AUGUST": THREE PERMISSION GRANTED CASES, ALL THREE REFUSENIKS, ONE A MEMBER OF A DEFECTOR'S FAMILY.

AUG 13: REFUSALS TO TWO FIRST-TIME APPLICANT FAMILIES, A MAN AND TWO CHILDREN AND A MAN AND HIS MOTHER, BECAUSE OF WORK.

SEPT 3: REFUSALS TO TWO FIRST-TIME APPLICANT FAMILIES; MAN, BROTHER, WIFE, AND DAUGHTER; MAN, WIFE, AND TWO DAUGHTERS; ONE BECAUSE OF ARMY SERVICE, THE OTHER BECAUSE OF WORK.

SEPT 17: PERMISSION TO A REFUSENIK, WIFE, MOTHER, AND TWO DAUGHTERS.

4. WHILE FRIDAY FIGURES EXHAUST THE NUMBER OF REFUSALS, THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF PERMISSIONS GRANTED SINCE, AS OUR SOURCE POINTED OUT, OVIR HANDS OUT PERMISSIONS ON ANY DAY OF THE WEEK BUT DEALS IN REFUSALS ONLY ON FRIDAYS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE QTE MAJORITY ENDQTE OF APPLICANTS DO OBTAIN VISAS, HE ASSERTS, BUT, AS HE ADMITTED, THE GROUP OF APPLICANTS IS SELF-SELECTED SINCE MANY WHO HAVE GROUNDS TO FEAR REFUSAL DO NOT APPLY. MOREOVER, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, OF THE TWENTY-THREE REFUSAL CASES, TWENTY-TWO ARE NEW CASES,

AND ONLY ONE IS A REPEATED REFUSAL, WHILE OF THE ELEVEN INDIVIDUAL PERMISSIONS GRANTED, NINE WERE GRANTED TO PREVIOUS REFUSENIKS. OR, IF WE COUNT SINGLE PERSON APPLICATIONS, ONLY ONE OF ELEVEN REFUSALS WENT TO A PREVIOUS REFUSENIK, WHILE OF SEVEN PERMISSIONS, FIVE WENT TO PREVIOUS REFUSENIKS. THE LENINGRAD REFUSENIK COMMUNITY IS ESTIMATED TO NUMBER AT PRESENT ROUGHLY 100 FAMILIES.

5. TWO OF THE PERMISSION-GRANTED CASES BOOSTED OUR SOURCE'S HOPES. ONE OF THESE WAS THAT OF GEORGIY SOKIRIANSKIY, SON OF A MAN WHO DID NOT RETURN FROM THE WEST AFTER WWII. THERE WERE THREE SUCH
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RELATIVES OF "NON-RETURNEES" (OR DEFECTORS) AMONG THE REFUSENIKS. TWO YEARS AGO, POLINA EPPELMAN AND HER CHILDREN BECAUSE THE FIRST MEMBERS OF A NON-RETURNEE FAMILY TO BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE. NOW THERE REMAINS ONLY THE CASE OF LAZAR YAKOVLEVICH LIBERMAN. THESE REFUSENIKS BELONGING TO NON-RETURNEE FAMILIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THEIR FELLOW REFUSENIKS TO BE UNDER AN ESPECIALLY DARK CLOUD, AND BOTH THE EPPELMAN AND SOKIRIANSKIY VISAS TENDED TO INSPIRE HOPE. THE SECOND CASE TO INSPIRE OPTIMISM IS THAT OF LEONID RAINUS, AN "ACTIVE"

REFUSENIK WHO, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, MOTHER, AND TWO CHILDREN, WAS GIVEN EXIT PERMISSION ON SEPT 17. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REFUSALS SINCE SEPT 3.

6. CONGEN WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE THESE FIGURES AS INFORMATION BECOMSE AVAILABLE.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DATA, REPORTS, IMMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LENING01540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760360-0881
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760929/aaaaayen.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JEWISH EMIGRATION LENINGRAD
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, CVIS, CGEN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006